

Meeting Minutes

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

January 9, 2014 ● DPW Conference Room ● 4:30 PM

Attendees: Arnie Alper, Laurel Dickey, Cristina Cox Fernandes, Craig Goff, Sue Morrello, Susan Waite

Minutes Approval

November and December 2013 minutes approved with corrections.

School Committee Letter

Laurel and Craig have drafted a letter to inform the school committee about the new regulations regarding composting requirements for institutions. The letter is not complete and needs accurate information. This task was delegated to the “Composting” working group with the desire that this be done ASAP.

“Republican Extra” Delivery Proposal

The Republican asked for feedback from the Select Board regarding their desire to deliver their weekly flyer in a plastic bag to the driveways of Amherst residents (instead of current USPS-delivered system). We consolidated ensuing discussion opposing the measure into the following three reasons:

- Security – bags left on driveways for days may imply that owners are away on vacation.
- Increased trash/less recycling - approximately 9,000 households times 1 bag/week times 52 weeks (more difficult to recycle, now that the newspaper needs to be removed from the bag).
- Philosophical – departure from progressive philosophy of Town.

Sue moved that the committee oppose delivery of the Republican flyer in plastic bags to Amherst driveways. Motion passed unanimously.

Cristina made a motion that a short letter be drafted to the Select Board with bullet points discussed. Motion passed unanimously. Arnie will write letter and attend the 1/27/2014 Select Board meeting.

New Business

Community Recycling Program

Sue briefly reported on a for-profit textile recycling business but is waiting to hear back from them. The transfer station is a possible location for a collection bin.

Zero-Waste Webinar

Susan reported that the cost turned out to be much higher than originally thought. Additionally, Lynne Pledger was not enthusiastic about the program. She is a local expert in zero-waste issues.

Focus Area Working Groups

Members volunteered for membership in working groups established during our January 6 planning meeting:

- Composting - Craig, Sue, John (not present, proposed)
- Downtown Recycling - Arnie, Brenda (not present, proposed)
- Transfer Station & SWEF – Laurel, Cristina, Arnie

The plan is for working groups to report out during each meeting. We will arrange for the groups to meet for 10 to 15 minutes after the full meeting adjourns for productive break-out sessions.

Working group discussions followed.

Submitted by Susan Morrello